

LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Medical Officer of Health 1915.

THE YEWS,
LEDBURY,

21st February, 1916.

GENTLEMEN,—

ANNUAL REPORT.

You again honoured me by re-appointing me as Deputy for Dr. Harrison, who is still absent on military service. My appointment has now received the sanction of the Local Government Board.

Mr. R. G. Gurney, your Sanitary Inspector, having received a Commission in the Army on the 5th August, 1915, his duties have been shared between Mr. C. H. Bastow, Chairman of the Streets Committee, and Mr. W. G. Davis, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee.

I beg to report that 67 Births have been registered in your district during the year 1915, of which 34 were males and 33 females. Five of these were illegitimate, and of these four were from outside the Urban District. The Birth Rate is 22·8.

There were also registered 61 Deaths. Seventeen of these were non-residents, so that the Death Rate of those belonging to the Urban District is 15·3.

Of these deaths, six were of persons between 80 and 90, 11 between 70 and 80, eight between 60 and 70, and one over 90.

The deaths of Infants under one year were 10. One of these was a non-resident and illegitimate. The causes of death were : Bronchitis 5, Broncho-pneumonia 1, Premature Birth 1, Gastro-enteritis 3.

The chief causes of death, besides senile decay, were : Heart disease 9, Cancer 4, Tubercular disease 4. Three deaths certified by Coroner.

The list of notifiable Infectious Diseases is as follows : Erysipelas one, Tubercular disease nine, Diphtheria four, Scarlet Fever three, Enteric Fever two, Polio-myelitis one. The Enteric Fever and Polio-myelitis cases were all imported into the district from outside.

No death from any Zymotic disease during the year. The deaths from Tubercular disease were three females aged 27, 30, and 32, and one male aged 20 months.

The Medical Officer appointed by the County Council to attend to Tubercular cases having left to take up a Commission in the R.A.M.C., Dr. Gold now occasionally visits Ledbury to carry on the work of the Tubercular Dispensary. All reported cases are sent to him and he advises as to general and Sanatorium treatment.

The arrangement with the Hereford Rural Council with regard to an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases has had to be postponed until after the War owing to difficulties about the enlargement of their hospital.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND OCCUPATION.

Purely rural, supplying an agricultural district. No manufactories.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The house accommodation of the town still varies from good to bad. The Local Government Board have for the present refused assent to the Council proceeding with their plans for the provision of Artizans' Dwellings on the site in Belle Orchard.

Houses under notice at beginning of year	...	...	13
„ reported upon in 1915	...	...	23

Houses considered to be uninhabitable and closing orders served	o
„ in which defects were made good without notice	... 9
„ in which defects were made good after notice...	... 13
„ found to be in order	 1
„ in which work is in hand or under notice	 13
	—36
„ voluntarily closed	 0
„ demolished by order	 0

Defects generally : Walls and ceilings require re-decoration.

No case of over-crowding. No back-to-back houses. Building bye-laws are in force.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplied to the town is from a well sunk in limestone in the Council's own ground, two miles from Ledbury, and is free from contamination. There has been abundance of water during the year. The water has been examined and found pure and excellent.

MILK SUPPLY.

Seven dairies or milk shops supply milk in the town, but are outside the Urban area. No complaint as to the character of the milk has been noted. I would suggest to the Council that the owners of these dairies should present certificates twice yearly certifying the animals free from Tubercular disease.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Three slaughter-houses are registered in the town. They are inspected periodically and kept in as good order as their old construction will permit. No veterinary inspection of meat is compulsory. A common slaughter-house would, I believe, have many advantages.

BAKE-HOUSES.

The Bakeries are 14 in number, and none are underground. They are kept clean and in good condition, and the sanitary arrangements are good. No action under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875, has taken place.

SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The system in force is the septic process and broad irrigation. The septic tanks are eight in number and all work satisfactorily. Irrigation is by channel pipes and ditches.

HOUSE REFUSE.

By public scavenger once weekly.

LODGING HOUSES.

Four in number, and satisfactorily kept.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary arrangements are good. They are connected with the main drainage system of the town, and the water supply is good and ample from the town source. The children are examined periodically by the Medical Officer of the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 27 of these in the district, all of which are satisfactorily kept. They are all workshops employing from one to a maximum of 12 hands. The sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. Not more than one sex is employed in any one workshop. Section 22 of the Public Health Act, 1890, has not been adopted and is not necessary.

The Health of the Town during the year has been good, and beyond the routine work there has been nothing to report on.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. BARTLEY McKEAN.

Report of Sanitary Inspector, 1915.

1.	Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
2.	Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
3.	Notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
4.	Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
5.	Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
6.	Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
7.	Legal proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
8.	INFECTIOUS DISEASES.							
	Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
	Removals to Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
	Bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
9.	HOUSES.							
	Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	270
	Closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Made fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	Houses demolished (partly or entirely)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Houses erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Houses cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
10.	WATER SUPPLY.							
	Wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Wells deepened, repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Samples analysed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Water certificate granted	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Connected to main supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
11.	HOUSE DRAINS.							
	Laid, relaid, cleansed, trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	Spouting, waste pipes, sinks rectified	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
12.	WATER CLOSETS, URINALS, ETC.							
	Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Improved and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
13.	PRIVIES, ASHPITS.							
	Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
14.	SCAVENGING.							
	Privies, Receptacles, &c., cleaned	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
	Ashpits, Cesspools, &c., emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
15.	Slaughter Houses inspected, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
16.	Dairies and Cowsheds inspected, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
17.	Lodging Houses inspected, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
18.	Workshops and Bakehouses inspected, cleansed, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
19.	Unsound Food seized	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
20.	Nuisances from animals improperly kept and accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
21.	Miscellaneous Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

21st February, 1916.

